

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9337

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

S E C R E T BONN 05909

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, GW, MBFR

SUBJECT: MBFR - BUHDESWEHR RESTRUCTURING PLAN

REF: MBFR VIENNA 174

1. WE CONCUR WITH REFTEL THAT THE FMOD PROBABLY VIEWS THE "STANDBY READINESS" FORCE AS AN ATTRACTIVE POSSIBLE OPTION FOR THE FRG TO TAKE FORCE REDUCTIONS WHEN THE TIME COMES. IN FOLLOWING UP ON THIS POINT AGAIN WITH FMOD MBFR EXPERT LT. COL. SCHILLING GAF ON APRIL 10 (REPORTED SEPTTEL), WE ASKED PRECISELY HOW THE GERMANS ENVISAGE TAKING THEIR REDUCTIONS. SPECIFICALLY, WE ASKED WHETHER IT WAS THE GERMAN INTENTION TO CONSIDER AS A REDUCTION A NON-COMBAT SPACE (E.G. TRUCKDRIVER) IN AN ACTIVE DUTY UNIT LEFT VACANT BUT DESIGNATED TO BE FILLED BY A "STANDBY READINESS" SOLDIER IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.

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SCHILLING, WHO IS A MEMBER OF TREBESCH'S RATHER

THAN STEINHAUS' STAFF, RESPONDED THAT THIS WAS NOT HIS UNDERSTANDING AS TO HOW THE FRG WOULD TAKE REDUCTIONS, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT AND PROBABLY COULD NOT ELABORATE ON THIS POINT SINCE GERMAN THINKING ON THE PROBLEM HAS NOT YET JELLED. SCHILLING REPEATED THAT THE FRG REALLY DOES NOT PLAN TO DECIDE THE ISSUE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS "SATISFACTORY RESULTS" HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED IN THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. FONOFF MBFR DEPARTMENT DEPUTY DIRECTOR GESCHER, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT DURING THE CONVERSATION, ADDED THAT THE PURPOSE IN POST-PONING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "STANDBY READINESS" FORCE CONCEPT WAS TO INSURE THAT THE GERMANS DID NOT TAKE REDUCTIONS TWICE.

2. RUTH ADDED THAT THE ULTIMATE METHOD OF BUNDESWEHR REDUCTIONS WOULD DEPEND TO A GREAT EXTENT ON THE SOVIET METHOD OF DEALING WITH WITHDRAWN FORCES. IF THE SOVIETS WERE TO DISBAND UNITS RATHER THAN MERELY REPOSITION THEM IN THE WMD'S, THEN THE GERMANS TOO WOULD PROBABLY DISBAND. HOWEVER, IF THE SOVIETS CHOSE THE LATTER COURSE, THE GERMANS MIGHT CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF TRADING OFF A "STANDBY READINESS" SOLDIER RECALLABLE WITHIN THE SAME TIME FRAME (72 HOURS) AS IT WOULD TAKE THE SOVIETS TO MOVE FORCES FROM THE WMD'S BACK INTO THE NGA.

3. COMMENT: RUTH EXHIBITED A GREAT DEAL OF INTEREST IN SCHILLING'S RESPONSE, AND IT SEEMED EVIDENT THAT THE PROBLEM WAS ONE PRINCIPALLY UNDER CONSIDERATION IN FMOD. WE ASSUME FMOD WILL CONTINUE TO CONSIDER ALL POSSIBLE OPTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING REDUCTIONS AS THE NEGOTIATIONS PROCEED WITHOUT TAKING A POSITION PRIOR TO THE SHAPE OF THE AGREEMENT BECOMING CLEARER. END COMMENT.
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